**Three Day Road Chapter 29 and 30**

**Chapter 29 Hero (344-351)**

**Chapter 30 Little Bird Dancer (352-363)**

**Summary:**

**Hero**

Xavier and Niska paddle closer to home, Xavier has now run out of morphine and regrets his uncontrolled usage before.

Xavier falls asleep because he thinks it will help him overcome this need for morphine, in this time, he flashes back to the time when he and Elijah were still in the war.

At this point all of their original friends have died and only Fat remains.

Elijah Xavier and their group attack some German soldiers and take in five prisoners.

Xavier is compassionate to them and does not want to kill them and ends up taking them back to their own line with Fat.

Xavier wants to get hurt in order to be sent back and stop fighting, he wishes that he could be in the prisoners’ shoes because the war is over for them.

Xavier, Elijah and their group plan to invade Cambrai, the Germans major rail city but find that they have abandoned the city.

Elijah thinks they are cowards for giving up and asks “what is wrong with them” “They are not ready to give up yet are they?”

Elijah kills a German soldier although he doesn't have to, Xavier sees this and questions him, in return elijah says it is war and tells Xavier to go get his hearing checked out and he will be sent home as hero.

elijah says that after this war, they will return home and be praised as heroes.

**Little Bird Dancer**

Niska does her best and tries to help Xavier in any way possible, but she is not sure how.

Niska tells Xavier stories as this is her only way of helping him.

Xavier has many nightmares of the war and constantly screams out their name Niska tries to comfort him and tell him that he will learn to walk with the crutches one day

She reminds him of the time when he was moose hunting and tries to remind him of the good times he had as a child. She reminds him of the time he danced lika a bird when he was showing everyone how his prey acted.

**Quotations:**

* **“An idea comes to me late at night when I’m most vulnerable. If I’m wounded badly enough, they will send me to Blighty, maybe even home. But how to accomplish this? I could ask Elijah to do it. No, not a good idea. In his blood-lust Elijah would probably kill me. I laugh to myself. Am I a coward for thinking such thoughts?”**(346 second last paragraph) The significance of this quotation is that it shows foreshadowing for what will happen next in the book. It shows how Xavier truly feels about Elijah’s actions during this war and how he feels Elijah just kills for bloodlust. Xavier tries to cover up these feelings for his best friend by laughing at what he thinks and brushing it off but it comes back to haunt him later on in the book. It also shows quite a bit of character development because in the beginning of the book Xavier really cared about Elijah and loved him as his own brother but now he’s starting to take Elijah’s actions in the war more personally.
* **“The air turning poison. Men wearing monstrous masks. Nephew running from something. All of them running from something. Great fear. Turning to look. It is Elijah”**(363) The significance of this quotation is that it reveals more of the story and what’s to happen next in the book. Niska, being inside Xavier’s dreams, see’s that there’s something wrong with Elijah but she does not know what it is. It also shows Xaviers fear of Elijah. It foreshadows what’s going to happen next in the war and what happened to Elijah. The part of the quotation “The air turning poison. Men wearing monstrous masks.” Shows imagery of what’s happened in the war. The Germans wearing their gas masks and using poisonous gas as a weapon shows the dangers of the war and what Xavier fears since it’s coming from his own dreams.

**Questions:**

1. Why is it so difficult for Niska to find a cure for Xavier?

A: She is unfamiliar with the crippling effects of war; (pg 353) “But what nephew suffers from has been inflicted in a place I do not understand”. She also realizes that the war does not only destroys a person physically but mentally, that her visions of “killing and of the earth exploding in fountains of mud” is just a small taste.

2. What does Niska’s story of Xavier tell you about his character?

A: It reveals that he is brave, determined, self-controlled and very intelligent. He was completely alone deep in the bush during winter, and managed to prevent fear and panic take control of his actions. Being very young, he also knew to construct a fire and hunt and cook his game for food.

3. Why do you think Fat is the only one left, besides Xavier and Elijah, from their original section?(pg.345)

A: Fat outlived the others because he didn’t let the war totally consume him or change him. He coped with fear and pain instead . Elijah, and most likely Grey Eyes took morphine to soothe their hardships with the war which lead to the death of others (Sean Patrick’s death - pg. 110 and 111 and Elijah becoming a blood-lusting monster) and eventually themselves. (Own Opinion) The other men became restless and let fright and anxiety control their thoughts and actions which got them killed. Fat was also afraid but let fear take control of his actions in a way that prevented him from fighting and killing others (hid and avoided the situations)

4. What could Xavier’s loss of hearing mean metaphorically?

A: Since hearing is essential to hunting when hunting (hearing animals), his hearing loss could mean that he is losing grasp of some of his heritage or ability to use what he has learnt from the bush to help him in the war forcing him to use the ways of the British and Canadian soldiers of mindlessly killing, non-strategically: assimilation.